

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Application No.: 10/760,383

Atty Docket No.: Q79532

REMARKS

The Office Action of January 3, 2005 has been received and its contents carefully considered.

Claims 1 to 17 are all the claims pending in the application.

Applicants note that the Examiner has indicated that claims 1 to 15 are allowable.

The Examiner has objected to claims 16 and 17 because “(meth)acrylic” is misspelled.

Applicants have amended claims 16 and 17 to correct this error.

Claims 16 and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Lau.

Applicants submit that Lau does not disclose or render obvious the presently claimed invention and accordingly request withdrawal of this rejection.

The present invention as set forth in claim 16 as amended above is directed to a process for producing a (meth)acrylic acid based polymer by polymerizing a (meth)acrylic acid based monomer in a polymerization reaction solution, wherein the polymerization reaction solution contains one or more of a persulfate and one or more of a bisulfite as the initiator, and the polymerization reaction solution contains one or more heavy metal ions in an amount of 0.1 to 30 ppm.

Thus, applicants have amended claim 16 to recite that the heavy metal ions are present in an amount of 0.1 to 30 ppm.

Lau discloses at column 5, lines 48 to 51, a reducing agent (iron salt) in an amount of 0.01 to 2% by weight, corresponding to 100 to 20,000 ppm. The range disclosed in Lau differs greatly from and does not suggest the 0.1 to 30 ppm range recited in claim 16.

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In view of the above, applicants submit that Lau does not disclose or suggest the subject matter of claim 1 and, accordingly, request withdrawal of this rejection.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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